

Claims

We Claim:

1. A method of treating a patient requiring long-term therapy following hematopoietic cell transplantation having graft-versus-host disease (GVHD) or following organ allograft transplantation having host-versus-graft disease (HVGD) the method comprising long term topical oral administration of a topically active corticosteroid.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is administered orally at a dosage of 4 mg per day to 12 mg per day.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient has tissue damage and the tissue is intestinal mucosa.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient has tissue damage and the tissue is small bile ducts in the liver.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient has tissue damage and the tissue damage is inflammation.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient has tissue damage and the tissue damage is destruction of the mucosa of the intestine.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is administered orally from day 29 to day 56 following hematopoietic cell transplantation.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is administered in combination with prednisone or prednisolone at 2 mg/kg.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is formulated for oral administration in the form of a pill, capsule or microsphere.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein the of topically active corticosteroid is formulated such that the pill, microsphere, or capsule dissolves in the stomach, small intestine or colon.
11. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is formulated for oral administration in the form of an emulsion.
12. The method of claim 1 wherein administration of the topically active corticosteroid initiates following infusion of the hematopoietic cells.
13. The method of claim 1 wherein administration of the topically active corticosteroid ceases after 80 days following infusion of the hematopoietic cells.
14. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is the recipient of HLA-mismatched hematopoietic stem cells.
15. The method of claim 1 wherein the patient is the recipient of unrelated donor hematopoietic stem cells, umbilical vein hematopoietic stem cells, or peripheral blood stem cells.
16. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is administered in combination with other prophylactic agents.
17. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is beclomethasone dipropionate.
18. The method of claim 1 wherein the topically active corticosteroid is alclometasone dipropionate, busedonide, 22S busesonide, 22R budesonide, beclomethasone-17-monopropionate, clobetasol propionate, diflorasone diacetate, flunisolide, flurandrenolide, fluticasone propionate, halobetasol propionate, halcinocide, mometasone furoate, or triamcinalone acetonide.